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SPORTS

Winchester football hammers Peabody in home opener, heading to Waltham to face Hawks Friday night

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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Winchester High football senior running back Nicky Rotondi (3) scampers for additional yards during a game last year. Rotondi has already started this season off right with two touchdowns against Peabody last Friday night. He picked off a pass on defense, and ran it back for one touchdown, while returning a kic
for six more. WINCHESTER NEWS FILE PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

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Winchester High School football coach Wally Dembowski could not have asked for a better start to the season.

The Red & Black totally dominated non-league Peabody last Friday night (Sept. 12) in the home opener at Knowlton Stadium, 42-7. They scored points in each quarter against a team that they know all too well.

The Tanners, the 11th seed in the final 2024 Division 2 power rankings, were their first-round Sweet 16 opponent last year, and as the sixth seed the Winchester boys edged them in a high scoring game, 35-27. Winchester was eliminated in the Round of 8 by host Marshfield, the third seed, 48-28. But the Northeastern Conference school did have some success against Dembowski's team, beating them in last year's opener, 27-21.

It's another year, but there's something to say about familiarity. Dembowski understands every season is different, and every team has to recognize the good, while trying to figure out on how to improve the bad.

"It was a good start, but we have a long way to go with assignments and techniques," the coach said. "But it was good to see that the effort in all three phases of the game was there.

"We did run the ball effectively, despite having three new offensive line starters in the lineup," he added. "[Among the game's standouts was] first-year player Will Mango, who did a nice job at linebacker and on special teams."

Senior captain Ronan O'Connell electrified the crowd right away with a 75-yard touchdown pass to Ted Budreski to begin the onslaught in the first quarter. Will Bolognese then added the extra point.

Captain Gianni Deprimeo finished off another first quarter drive [Subscribe] yards out to account for six more points, and Bolognese once again tacked

on the final exclamation point.

Sure-footed Winchester High football placekicker Will Bolognese picked up where he left off last year with six successful extra points to help lead his teammates to a rousing 42-7 victory over Peabody in the home opener last Friday night. WINCHESTER NEWS FILE PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

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In the second quarter, the defense took over, when Nick Rotondi intercepted a Peabody pass, and took it to the house from 25 yards out. Bolognese made another extra point to give his teammates a 21-0 lead, before the Tanners finally put points on the scoreboard. But it was all Red & Black after that.

Rotondi ignited the spark in the second half with an 88-yard kickoff return. O'Connell then showed off his arm once again with a 38-yard TD pass to Ryan Martin. Nolan Byrne closed out the scoring in this game with a three-yard run to paydirt. Bolognese nailed all three second half extra p[illegible] go a perfect six-for-six against the Tanners.

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Deprimeo was the team's leading rusher against Peabody with 122 yards on 11 carries. Rotondi was credited with two touchdowns, one on defense and another one on special teams, an example of how all three phases of the game were working in sync, despite it only being the first game of the year.

Waltham is next up for the local 11 Friday night (Sept. 19) at Waltham's Leary Field, beginning at 7 p.m. It'll be the Hawks' home opener after splitting their first two games of the season on the road. They defeated Belmont on Sept. 4, 24-12, but lost to Newton North last week, 29-0.

"(Waltham) is a big and physical team with a couple of good skilled players," said Dembowski.

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Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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March 3, 2026

Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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February 28, 2026

SPORTS

Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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February 27, 2026

SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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February 26, 2026

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NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day he colleagues pass sweeping energy

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Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

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